

They are right that alumni are often best suited to speak out about illiberalism on our campuses. It is understandably hard for students and faculty to speak out about the atmosphere of intolerance they live and work in. You know they are shamed, embarrassed—all of those things that are tools that shouldn't be used in any university that brags about academic freedom. That is where the alumni come in. Alumni can have an outsized voice in this atmosphere of lack of tolerance at some of our universities.

This is one reason why I recently joined the Senate Campus Free Speech Caucus. This Senate caucus aims to bring together Members who are interested in defending the rights of students on college campuses. In addition, I was proud to cosponsor the campus free speech resolution, which urges greater First Amendment protection at public universities. Just as with private alumni, Senators need to be willing to speak out and shine a light when students' rights are being infringed.

I have heard countless examples of universities putting an emphasis on superficial definitions of "diversity" that focus only on physical characteristics. The benefit of having people from different backgrounds is that they bring different viewpoints. But that whole concept of diversity is turned on its head if only one point of view is ever allowed to be spoken.

Universities do a disservice to their students if they just tamp down any idea that their loudest activists disagree with. Colleges should be places of debate and discussion, not enforced intellectual rigidity. Alumni need to be willing to speak out about these issues because, too often, people who are on that campus can't.

My definition of "university" that I have used throughout a lifetime is, it is a place where controversy runs rampant. It is a place where we ought to have civil discussions, respecting each other's points of view.

I don't know how many of my colleagues run into what I run into too often in Iowa at my town meetings. People proudly stand up and say: You know, there are two things I never talk about—religion and politics.

Well, if you are a religious person and God is going to have an impact on your life, why shouldn't you be willing to discuss that? You may be discussing it with a Baptist and a Catholic or with an atheist and with a Baptist or a Christian. Why shouldn't you be able to discuss that in a civil way because it is important to your life?

We all know the role of Big Government in our society, and we know the principles of representative government. Why shouldn't you be able to talk about politics? Republicans or Democrats or Socialists and Communists versus conservatives or whatever the case might be, you ought to be able to disagree in a civil way. It is the same way on the university campuses.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

REMEMBERING DENNIS MOORE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you for recognizing me. I rise this afternoon based upon an announcement earlier today. I rise in the memory of former Kansas Congressman Dennis Moore, a man who lived a life of service to our Nation. He was a friend, and I am sad to hear of his passing today.

Dennis, above all, was a kind man. He was a loving husband to his wife Stephene and a doting father and grandfather.

He was born in Anthony, KS, and went on to earn degrees from the University of Kansas and then Washburn University School of Law. He served our country with the U.S. Army Reserve and then Kansas for 12 years as the Johnson County district attorney. He was known for integrity and for a strong moral compass, which he carried with him to the Halls of Congress when elected in 1998.

Dennis's approach to politics was one-on-one, person-to-person, and oftentimes with his iconic guitar not too far out of his reach. It was this personal approach that paved the way for him to be the first Democratic Member of Congress from Kansas elected in that district in 37 years. As the Kansas City Star headlined today in their memorial to him, "Strumming a guitar instead of flinging mud"—doesn't that sound good?—"Strumming a guitar instead of flinging mud, Dennis Moore changed Kansas voters' minds."

He was a six-term Member, and in many ways, we spent those 6 years working together. He and I shared that period of time, and I have great respect for him and the way he served the people of the Third District of Kansas.

That respect for him only grew when I witnessed the way he and his wife Stephene faced his battle with Alzheimer's with a determination to use their experience to help others. They made a choice to make this private and devastating diagnosis public because they knew it would bring awareness to the realities of the disease.

Especially after his diagnosis and for as long as he was able, Dennis was a tireless advocate for the Alzheimer's Association. In 2018, I was humbled to receive an inaugural award in his name, the Dennis Moore Alzheimer's Champion Award, from the Alzheimer's Association of Central and Western Kansas.

He was vocal about what he went through and sincere in his urging for others having memory problems to see their doctor. In his free time, he still kept himself busy strumming his guitar at senior centers.

One area where we always agreed was the need to invest in finding a cure for Alzheimer's, and in 2014, Dennis shared his experience with this harrowing disease in front of my Senate Health Appropriations Subcommittee colleagues.

The executive director of the Kansas Alzheimer's Association, Fe

Vorderlandwehr, had this to say about Dennis:

After Congressman Moore was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, he became a fierce advocate for the Alzheimer's Association, championing the need for an increase in Alzheimer's research with the NIH. He became the face of the disease amongst his former colleagues in Congress as he testified about his battle with Alzheimer's and the need for research to keep other families from going through what he was going through. Through it all, he kept a wonderful sense of humor and his passion for music.

I leave you with the Congressman's own words, and he said this:

Alzheimer's is a bipartisan issue, and I urge my former colleagues to unite behind it, allotting the necessary resources to fight a public health crisis that millions of families just like mine are facing.

Dennis was a genuine, warm, decent man who lived an inspiring life that we can all learn from. His legacy will be the way in which he gave others battling Alzheimer's both courage and hope.

Robba and I extend our heartfelt condolences to his children and grandchildren and to Stephanie, his wife, and to all of those who knew him.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Wyoming.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to oppose the Democrats' reckless tax-and-spending spree.

On Thursday, President Biden came here to Capitol Hill to meet with Democrats over in the House. Just hours before he got here, economists sounded the alarms once again about the economy that our Nation is facing under President Biden.

Economic growth slowed to just 2 percent. Now, this is the slowest it has been since the post-pandemic recovery began. This was also significantly lower than even the experts expected. So there was a disconnect. It was really low and even lower than they expected.

Growth is slowing down; hiring is slowing down; and shelves are empty all across America. We have a growing supply chain nightmare. Prices continue to go up. I heard about it all across the State of Wyoming this past weekend.

So what did President Biden do in response?

Well, he ignored the alarm bells. He gave his blessing to the latest version of this reckless tax-and-spending bill.

And the new version looks a lot like the old version—just as radical, just as reckless, and just as unpopular with the American public. There is nothing really new in the bill except more budget gimmicks.

And it is interesting that NBC News, this weekend, came out with a poll that only 22 percent—only about one in five Americans think that, under Joe Biden and the Democrats, the country is on the right path. Seventy-one percent said we are on the wrong path.